

CLAIMS

What is claimed and desired to be covered by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A harvester comprising:
 - a) a handle element having
 - (1) a first end which is a distal end when said handle element is in a use orientation,
 - (2) a second end which is a proximal end when said handle element is in the use orientation, and
 - (3) a longitudinal axis which extends between the first end of said handle element and the second end of said handle element;
 - b) a first hand grip element mounted on said handle element near the second end of said handle element;
 - c) a second hand grip element mounted on said handle element on the second end of said handle element, said second hand grip element including
 - (1) a housing,
 - (2) a power source in the housing of said second hand grip element,
 - (3) an on/off control in the housing of said second hand grip element and connected to the

power source,

- (4) a supply of string in the housing, and
 - (5) a handgrip element on the housing; and
- d) a cutting head unit mounted on the first end of said handle element and including
- (1) a hub mounted on the first end of said handle element, the hub including a first end which is a top end when the hub is in a use orientation and which is oriented at a right angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of said handle element, a second end which is a bottom end when the hub is in the use orientation and which is oriented at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of said handle element, the second end of the hub being oriented at the oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of said handle element, a side wall which connects the first end of the hub to the second end of the hub, the side wall of the hub being a non-right angular shape, the hub including a longitudinal axis which extends between the first end of the hub and the second end of the hub and which

is co-linear with the longitudinal axis of said handle element and which is oriented at the oblique angle to the side wall of the hub, the side wall of the hub being oblique frusto-conical in shape,

- (2) a guard element which is mounted on the hub and which includes a body having a proximal end mounted on the hub to be located adjacent to the first end of said handle element, a distal end, a first side, a second side and a shield on the distal end of the body of said guard element, a first surface which is a top surface when the guard element is in a use orientation and a second surface which is a bottom surface when the guard element is in the use orientation,
- (3) a hollow string storage housing rotatably mounted on the second end of the hub, the string storage housing being hollow and having a first end located adjacent to the second end of the hub, a second end, a side wall which connects the first end of the string storage housing to the second end of the string storage housing, a string-

accommodating hole defined through the side wall of the string storage housing and which is adapted to accommodate string used during a harvesting operation in a manner that permits the string to be mounted on the string storage housing and to extend from inside the string storage housing through the side wall of the string storage housing, the string storage housing including a longitudinal axis which extends between the first end of the string storage housing and the second end of the string storage housing, the longitudinal axis of the string storage housing being oriented at the oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of said handle element,

- (4) a drive connection system connecting the string storage housing to the power source in the housing of said second hand grip element via the on/off control in the housing of said second hand grip element, the string storage housing being rotated by the power source when the on/off switch is in an "on" condition, and

- (5) a support roller unit mounted on the second end of the hollow string housing, the support roller unit including
 - (A) an annular support roller housing having a first end which is mounted on the second end of the hollow string housing, a second end, a longitudinal axis which is co-linear with the longitudinal axis of the string storage housing, and
 - (B) a support roller ball rotatably mounted on the support roller housing to extend out of the second end of the support roller housing and which is adapted to rollingly contact a support surface located beneath the string used during a harvesting operation.

2. A harvester comprising:

- a) a handle element having a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of said handle element and the second end of said handle element;
- b) a hub on the first end of said handle element, said hub having an oblique conical side wall which

includes a first end mounted on said handle element, and a second end;

- c) a string housing mounted on said hub, said string housing being hollow and including a first end mounted on the second end of said hub, a second end and a longitudinal axis which extends between the first end of said string housing and the second end of said string housing and which extends at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of said handle element, and a side wall having a string-accommodating hole defined therethrough and which is adapted to accommodate string being used during a harvesting operation;
- d) a guard mounted on said hub; and
- e) a support roller unit mounted on the second end of said string housing, the support roller unit including
 - (1) an annular support roller housing having a first end which is mounted on the second end of said string housing, a second end, a longitudinal axis which is co-linear with the longitudinal axis of said string storage housing, and

(2) a support roller ball rotatably mounted on the support roller housing to extend out of the second end of the support roller housing and which is adapted to rollingly contact a support surface located beneath the string used during a harvesting operation.